

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

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CSAF

S E C R E T STATE 203561

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MILI, US, SN, RP

SUBJECT: A-4 TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 3840; (B) MANILA 12121; (C) SINGAPORE
3821

1. OUR POSITION ON GOP-GOS AGREEMENT FOR RSAF A-4 TRAINING
IN THE PHILIPPINES, AS EXPRESSED IN PART (STATE 112604),
IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO CONSIDER COOPERATING
SYMPATHETICALLY WITH WHATEVER ARRANGEMENT WAS WORKED OUT

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BETWEEN GOS AND GOP. THIS REMAINS OUR POSITION AND WE

REMAIN SYMPATHETIC TO GOS INTEREST IN USE OF CLARK. AS AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN NOTES (REF B) AND AS AIRA SINGAPORE HAS ALREADY POINTED OUT TO PANG (REF C), IT IS INCORRECT FOR DRAFT AGREEMENT TO STATE USG HAS APPROVED PARTICULAR PROJECT, SINCE WE HAVE NOT HAD OCCASION TO DO SO, AND GOS MAY WISH TO GO BACK TO GOP ON THIS SPECIFIC POINT. WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT THAT, WHEN BILATERAL AGREEMENT FULLY WORKED OUT, GOS AND GOP WILL GET TOGETHER WITH US TO WORK OUT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF CLARK FACILITIES. FYI: GOP, OF COURSE, HAS OBLIGATION TO DO SO IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XXV OF 1947 MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES IN PART THAT GOP SHALL NOT GRANT,

WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF USG, ANY RIGHTS IN OR RELATING TO BASES TO ANY THIRD POWER. END FYI. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT TO BE IN A POSITION TO WORK OUT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL OUR OWN ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKED OUT WITH THE PHILS.

2. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED (STATE 120863) TO GOS THAT WE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO GOS CONTINUING DISCUSS PROJECT WITH GOP (AS SUGGESTED IN MANILA 6781) AND WE DO NOT WISH TO COME BETWEEN THE GOS AND GOP. HOWEVER, TACTICALLY WE NOW FIND OURSELVES IN THE MIDST OF CURRENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH INCLUDE ISSUES OF THIRD NATION USE OF BASE FACILITIES IN PHILIPPINES AND CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. FOR THIS REASON, WE HOPE THAT GOS STILL CONTINUES HOLD SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED PARA 1 OF SINGAPORE 2430 AND THAT GOS WOULD BE WILLING DEFER SIGNING AGREEMENT UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED, OR THESE ISSUES AT LEAST MUCH FURTHER ALONG. WE FRANKLY NOT ABLE PREDICT WHEN EITHER OF THESE CONDITIONS LIKELY TO OCCUR.

3. AS AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN NOTES (REF B), AT LEAST UNTIL WE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH GOP NEGOTIATORS ON SATISFACTORY CRIMINAL JURISDICTION PROVISION, GOP COULD MAKE LIFE VERY DIFFICULT FOR US BY PUBLICIZING DIFFERENCES IN OUR NEEDS AND WHAT GOS PREPARED ACCEPT. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE, AS EXPRESSED IN STATE 99293 AND STATE 201152, THAT OUR POSITION IS SO DIFFERENT FROM THE GOS POSITION

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IN TERMS OF SIZE AND PERMANENCE OF ESTABLISHMENT AND WORLD-WIDE NEEDS, THAT OUR DIFFERING NEEDS REMAIN DEFENSIBLE IN NEGOTIATING CONTEXT DESPITE ANY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN BY GOP. HOWEVER, WHILE WE WOULD NOT WISH TO URGE THE GOS TO SEEK CRIMINAL JURISDICTION PROVISION SIMILAR TO OURS, WE WOULD SEEK A DELAY AS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND ASSISTANCE TO US FOR THE REASONS AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN CITES.

4. AMBASSADOR MAY DRAW ON ABOVE AND APPROACH GOS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT GOS WILL CONSIDER DEFERRING SIGNING AGREEMENT AT PRESENT TIME. WE SEEK THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER. WE WILL INFORM THEM PROMPTLY WHEN WE ARE IN A POSITION TO PROCEED.

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